(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) No Act by the name of Foreign Citizens Act, 1946 exists.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Meeting of CMs of nexal affected states

595. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether he held a meeting of Chief Ministers of naxal-affected States, like Madhya Pradesh, Jharkhand, Andhra Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Bihar, Orissa, Maharashtra and Uttar Pradesh in September, 2004;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the decision taken at the meeting for development in Naxal-affected districts, particularly the tribal areas, in these States;

(d) whether there is need for a long term strategy to tackle the Naxal problem instead of merely treating it as a law and order situation; and

(e) if so, the assistance of Central Government have promised to provide to each of these Naxal-affected States in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SHRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. The Union Home Minister held a Conference of the Chief Ministers of the nine naxal-affected States at Hyderabad on 21.9.2004 to discuss various aspects of the naxal problem and the approach to be adopted to deal with it.

(c) The following decisions were taken in the Conference:-

(i) If in its assessment at State finds the conditions conducive, it may hold peace talks with the naxal groups, in any manner it decides to do so. The purpose of talks should be to strengthen peace and tranquility and reduce reliance of naxal groups on armed struggle.

(ii) During the period of peace dialogue, the State would continue to perform its legal duties and step up presence of the State Government machinery in the affected areas.

(iii) The States should consult each other, pursue a coordinated approach and conduct peace dialogue in a manner that it does not impact the other States adversely.

(iv) The need to accelerate developmental activities in naxal areas including tribal areas was emphasized. More employment opportunities, construction of roads and effective implementation of land reforms, speedy disposal of revenue cases were particularly mentioned.

(v) the states should post committed and willing officers with a stable tenure in the affected areas to provide better delivery mechanisms and to facilitate more effective and prompt redressal of public grievances.

(vi) The states should modernize their police forces and improve intelligence gathering and sharing mechanisms to take sustained and effective police action, wherever the possibility of a peace dialogue does not exist.

(vii) The Central Government will continue to assist the States in tackling the problem, in terms of funds for integrated development of affected areas including construction of roads, reimbursement of security related expenditure, modernization of State Police forces and deployment of Central Para-Military Forces.

(d) Keeping in view that naxalism can not be regarded nearly as a law and order problem, the Central Government has adopted a multi-pronged strategy to tackle the problem of naxalism which includes (a) having a peace dialogue by the affected State, wherever feasible, with naxal groups willing to adjure violence (b) modernisation and strengthening of the State Police forces, long term deployment of Para Military forces, intensified intelligence based well-coodinated anti-naxalite operations, (c) focused attention on integrated development of the affected areas and (d) gearing up of public grievances redressal system and creation of Local Resistance Groups.

(e) To enable the States to undertake more effective anti-naxalite action, the Ministry of Home Affairs is providing financial assistance under the Security Related Expenditure (SRE) and the Police Modernisation (PM) schemes. Besides, 55 naxal affected districts have been covered under the Backward Districts Initiative (BDI) scheme which provides Rs. 15 crores per district per year for 3 years starting from 2003-04, to fill in the critical gaps in physical and social infrastructure. The total amount under the BDI Scheme comes to Rs. 2475 crores. In addition, for 55 naxal affected districts additional funds amounting to Rs. 37.50 crores per year have been given for construction of roads in naxal affected areas under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY).